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| **Questions/Comments/**  **Inferences/Connections/**  **Predictions/Other Thoughts:** | | | **Topic: The Opium Wars Between China and Britain** |
| * Amazing. The arrogance of every population to assume that they are the best of the best is absolutely hilarious and appalling. If it's not Europeans, it's Asians, Russians, Brazilians, and oh wait, every other -ians of the world * Okay. I see why this introduction is titled Opium Wars. So between China and Britain, there was a trade feud going on to determine who was better. The British invaded China with the irresistible opium and poisoned its population so that China would have to submit to their economic will. * From the picture below about Spheres of Influence, I can conclude that five primary nations held power in China. From what I can tell, however, Britain seems to control the most land before being followed by France and Japan. This would make sense because Britain was most likely the first of the more-developed nations to invade the continent of Asia. | |  | **Main Idea : China’s government integrity was undermined by the British introduction of opium to the Chinese**  **Topic 1 : Unequal Treaties**   * With China’s inability to ban the importation of the addictive and illegal opium, Britain was able to work out the **Treaty of Nanjing of 1842**.   **Topic 2 : Spheres of Influence**   * Other Western gov’ts followed suit of Britain, establishing their own **spheres** **of influence and extraterritoriality** * The U.S. intervened with the **Open Door Policy of 1899** which created equal trade between all nations and no more **spheres of influence**   **Topic 3 : Chinese Reaction**   * The Chinese were not happy with the rule of the Manchu Dynasty and staged many rebellions like the **Taiping Rebellion b/w 1850-1864 and Boxer Rebellion of 1900**. * 5000 years of dynastic rule ended in 1911 with civil wars between warlords and nationalists (**Sun Yixian).** * In 1949, **Mao Zedong** and his communist forces defeated **Jiang Jieshi** for control of China as **Jieshi** fled to Taiwan and created a democracy there. |
| **Main Idea/Summary:** |  | | |
| **During Britain’s imperialistic drive, China was a target of Western imperialism. Using the Opium Wars to undermine the rule of the Manchu Dynasty, the Western nations were able to define their own spheres of influence in China. For example, the Treaty of Nanjing of 1842 gave all Englishmen the right to extraterritoriality and Britain more trading rights. The U.S. acted differently and destroyed the spheres of influence by assuring equal trade rights with the Open Door Policy of 1899. The people were tired of Western rule and found unification under Mao Zedong and his communist regime in 1949 after years of internal restlessness.** | | | |